

New England Telehealth Consortium Sites

| <u>NETC Site Name</u> | <u>Address</u> | <u>City</u> | <u>State</u> | <u>Zip</u> | <u>RUCA</u> | <u>Phone Number</u> | <u>Type</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|
| The Aroostook Medical Center - Limestone | 87 Access Hwy | Limestone | ME | 04750 | 10.3 | 2073253310 | Health Clinic |
| The Aroostook Medical Center - North St | 11 North Street | Presque Isle | ME | 04769 | 7 | 2077684000 | Health Clinic |
| The Bond Wellness Center at MCH | 458 Old Street Road | Peterborough | NH | 03458 | 7.4 | 6039244650 | Health Clinic |
| The Cianchette Building Brewer | 43 Whiting Hill Rd | Brewer | ME | 04412 | 1 | 2079737050 | Healthcare |
| The Jackson Laboratory | 600 Main Street | Bar Harbor | ME | 04609 | 7 | 2072886000 | Health Research |
| Transcription, LifeLine, Cancer Registry | 10 Amherst Street | Biddeford | ME | 04005 | 4.1 | 2072837717 | Healthcare |
| Trenton Health Center | 394 Bar Harbor Road | Bar Harbor | ME | 04609 | 7 | 2076675899 | Health Clinic |
| UNH School of Health and Human Services | 279 Hewitt Hall, 4 Library Way | Durham | NH | 03824 | 1 | 6038625099 | Health Education |
| Upper Connecticut Valley Hospital | 181 Corliss Lane | Colebrook | NH | 03576 | 10 | 6032374971 | Hospital |
| Valley Regional Hospital | 243 Elm St. | Claremont | NH | 03743 | 4 | 6035427771 | Hospital |
| Visting Nurse of Aroostook | 14 Carroll Street | Caribou | ME | 04736 | 7 | 2074982578 | Healthcare |
| VNA Home Health Care | 50 Foden Road | South Portland | ME | 04106 | 1 | 2077808624 | Health Clinic |
| VNAH Brattleboro | 1 Holstein Pl., Suite 311 | Brattleboro | VT | 05301 | 4 | 8022574390 | Health Clinic |
| VNAH Lebanon | 66 Benning St., Suite 6 | West Lebanon | NH | 03784 | 4 | 6032988399 | Health Clinic |
| VNAH Springfield | 38 Pleasant Street | Springfield | VT | 05156 | 7 | 8028852503 | Health Clinic |
| VNAH White River | 331 Olcott Dr., Suite U1 | White River Junct | VT | 05001 | 5 | 8022952604 | Health Clinic |
| Wakefield Family Medicine | 131 Meadow Street | Wakefield | NH | 03872 | 10.1 | 6035225010 | Health Clinic |
| Waldoboro MMG Office | 230 Kalers Corner Road | Waldoboro | ME | 04572 | 10 | 2078326394 | Health Clinic |
| Washburn Regional Health Center | 1260 Main Street | Washburn | ME | 04786 | 10 | 2074558147 | Health Clinic |
| Waterville Family Practice | 13 Railroad Sq. | Waterville | ME | 04901 | 4 | 2078731181 | Health Clinic |
| Waterville Foot & Ankle Center, PA | 25 First Park Suite C | Oakland | ME | 04963 | 4 | 2078726010 | Health Clinic |

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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Waterville Obstetrics and Gynecology | 325 Kennedy Memorial Dr # E | Waterville | ME | 04901 | 4 | 2078735665 | Health Clinic |
| Waterville Pediatrics | 159 Silver Street | Waterville | ME | 04901 | 4 | 2078735437 | Health Clinic |
| Waterville Surgical Associates | 180 Kennedy Memorial Dr #303 | Waterville | ME | 04901 | 4 | 2078617874 | Health Clinic |
| Waterville Surgical, P.A. | 180 Kennedy Memorial Dr #204 | Waterville | ME | 04901 | 4 | 2078727600 | Health Clinic |
| Waterville Women's Care | 180 Kennedy Memorial Dr #101 | Waterville | ME | 04901 | 4 | 2078777477 | Health Clinic |
| Weeks Home Health | 278 Main St | Lancaster | NH | 03584 | 10 | 6037885020 | Health Clinic |
| Weeks Medical Center | 173 Middle Street | Lancaster | NH | 03584 | 10 | 6037884911 | Hospital |
| Weeks-Groveton Physician's Office | 47 Church St | Groveton | NH | 03582 | 10 | 603-636-1101 | Health Clinic |
| Weeks-Lancaster Physician's Office | 170 Middle St | Lancaster | NH | 03584 | 10 | 603-788-2521 | Health Clinic |
| Weeks-Whitefield Physician's Office | 8 Clover Lane | Whitefield | NH | 03598 | 10 | 6038379005 | Health Clinic |
| Wells Urgent Care | 114 Sanford Road | Wells | ME | 04090 | 10.4 | 2076418060 | Health Clinic |
| West Central Behavioral Health | 9 Hanover St., Suite 2 | Lebanon | NH | 03766 | 4 | 6034480126 | Behavioral Health |
| Westbrook Student Health Center | 716 Stevens Ave | Portland | ME | 04103 | 1 | 2072214242 | Health Clinic |
| Western Maine Family Practice | 193 Main Street, Suite 2 | Norway | ME | 04268 | 7 | 2077439292 | Health Clinic |
| Western Maine OB/GYN | 192 Main Street, Suite 2 | Norway | ME | 04268 | 7 | 2077437605 | Health Clinic |
| Western Maine Pediatric | 192 Main Street, Suite 9 | Bridgton | ME | 04009 | 10.4 | 2077438766 | Health Clinic |
| White Birch Medical Center | 899 Central Street | Millinocket | ME | 04462 | 7 | 2077235173 | Health Clinic |
| William E. Bennett, M.D. | 325 C Kennedy Memorial Drive | Waterville | ME | 04901 | 4 | 2078729511 | Health Clinic |
| William Marsh, M.D. | 240 South Main Street | Wolfeboro | NH | 03894 | 7 | 6035691550 | Health Clinic |
| William R. Chasse, M.D. | 325 Kennedy Memorial Drive | Waterville | ME | 04901 | 4 | 2078730737 | Health Clinic |
| Winnepesaukee Family Medicine | 240 South Main Street | Wolfeboro | NH | 03894 | 7 | 6035697574 | Health Clinic |

New England Telehealth Consortium Sites

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Winthrop Health Center | 149 Maine Street Suite 2A | Winthrop | ME | 04364 | 7.2 | 2073772111 | Health Clinic |
| Winthrop Pediatrics | 148 Maine Street Suite 1A | Winthrop | ME | 04364 | 7.2 | 2073772114 | Health Clinic |
| Wiscasset MMG Office | 49 Hooper Street | Wiscasset | ME | 04578 | 10.5 | 2078827911 | Health Clinic |
| Wolfeboro OB/GYN | 240 South Main Street | Wolfeboro | NH | 03894 | 7 | 6035697585 | Health Clinic |
| Wolfeboro Orthopedics | 240 South Main Street | Wolfeboro | NH | 03894 | 7 | 6035692251 | Health Clinic |
| Wolfeboro Pediatrics | 240 South Main Street | Wolfeboro | NH | 03894 | 7 | 6035697620 | Health Clinic |
| Women's Health Center | 8 Wayman Lane | Bar Harbor | ME | 04609 | 7 | 2072888100 | Health Clinic |
| York County Community Health Center | 6 Spruce Street | Sanford | ME | 04073 | 4 | 2074906900 | FQHC |
| York Hospital | 15 Hospital Drive | York | ME | 03909 | 2 | 2073634321 | Hospital |

Appendix I Requested Exceptions

1. We request that the FCC grant us an exception to the normal 465 filing process. We respectfully request that we be allowed to submit one form 465 with an attachment listing all the sites in our consortium. (See Appendix I) If this exception is not granted, we will have to file 555 separate 465 forms. Filing one aggregate 465 form for all of the NETC sites will make it more efficient to submit form 465, and will provide an easier audit mechanism for USAC.
2. We request that the USAC 465 submission follow the initial network design study, allow a 28 day bid waiting period, time to review and evaluate bids, and still provide NETC with one full year of funding.
3. We request that the FCC grant us an exception to the normal 466 filing process. We respectfully request that we be allowed to submit one form 466 with an attachment listing all the sites in our consortium. (See Appendix I) If this exception is not granted, we will have to file 555 separate 466 forms. Filing one aggregate 466 form for all of the NETC sites will make it more efficient to submit form 466, and will provide an easier audit mechanism for USAC.
4. We request that the FCC grant us an exception to the normal 467 filing process. We respectfully request that we be allowed to submit one form 467 with an attachment listing all the sites in our consortium. (See Appendix I) If this exception is not granted, we will have to file 555 separate 467 forms. Filing one aggregate 467 form for all of the NETC sites will make it more efficient to submit form 467, and will provide an easier audit mechanism for USAC.
5. Since New England Telehealth Consortium will be incurring the costs to design the network, we respectfully request that the FCC allow New England Telehealth Consortium to invoice USAC for network design work.

Appendix J Support Letters

Letters of support have been received and are attached or have been sent directly to the FCC.

Maine Delegation

John Baldacci, Governor
Susan Collins, U.S. Senator
Olympia Snowe, U.S. Senator
Tom Allen, U.S. Representative
Michael Michaud, U.S. Representative

Maine Department of HHS

New Hampshire Delegation

John Lynch, Governor
John Sununu, U.S. Senator – sent letters to FCC
Judd Gregg, U.S. Senator – sent letters to FCC
Paul Hodes, U.S. Representative – sent letters to FCC
Carol Shea-Porter, U.S. Representative – sent letters to FCC

Vermont Delegation

Patrick Leahy, U.S. Senator
Bernard Sanders, U.S. Senator
Peter Welch, U.S. Representative

Internet2

Northern Crossroads



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

April 30, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Martin:

I am writing to express my strong support for the New England Telehealth Consortium's (NETC) application for funding under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

Maine is a large, rural state in terms of geography, but a small state in the sense that our residents have time and again shown how it is possible to work collaboratively to address emerging challenges. This application is yet another example of Mainers working together: NETC has a total of 621 sites across New England, with the majority (508) in Maine, representing an impressive 86% of our state's health care providers.

Awarding this application would remove important roadblocks that have been encountered in a range of health reform efforts underway in Maine, thus allowing these efforts to come to fruition. For instance, Maine's *HealthInfoNet* seeks to create a statewide interconnected Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system. Stakeholders have worked hard to address a range of issues surrounding the creation of a successful system, but one problem they have been unable to address is that many parts of the state simply lack the internet infrastructure necessary for an effective EMR system. Pilot Program funding would address this critical issue, enabling *HealthInfoNet* to move forward.

Further, my biennial State Health Plan – which lays out a comprehensive approach to improving Maine citizens' health and the performance of Maine's health care system – recognizes the importance of telemedicine in a rural state like Maine. The Plan created a telehealth workgroup – many of whose members are participants in NETC's application – convened jointly by the Governor's Office and the Maine Health Access Foundation to encourage appropriate use of telemedicine by sharing of best practices and by identifying and addressing barriers to appropriate telemedicine use, one of which is the lack of internet infrastructure in many parts of the state. Rural Health Care Pilot Program funding would also help this effort by improving the broadband access necessary for effective telemedicine.



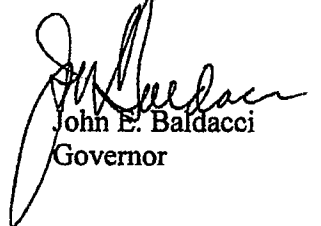
PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
888-577-6690 (TTY)
www.maine.gov

PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

FAX: (207) 287-1034

I strongly believe that awarding this application can bring tremendous benefits to the people of Maine, as well as accomplishing the goals of the pilot program by providing a statewide model for other rural areas by showing how stakeholders can work together to build efficient and effective health care systems to improve health care cost, quality, and access for their residents. I urge your careful consideration of this application, and I assure you that I will continue to offer my support in any way that I can.

Sincerely,



John E. Baldacci
Governor

cc: Honorable Michael J. Copps
Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate
Honorable Robert M. McDowell
Jim Rogers, President, ProInfoNet
Trish Riley, Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2523
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
RANKING MEMBER
ARMED SERVICES
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING

April 24, 2007

Mr. James Rogers
New England Telehealth Consortium
C/o ProInfoNet
145 Exchange Street, Suite 4
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Mr. Rogers:

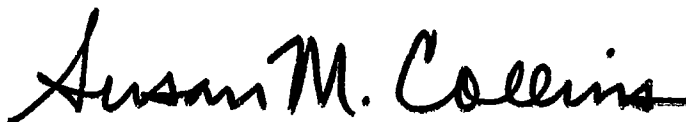
I write to express my strong support for the application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for funding to create the New England Telehealth Consortium (Consortium). The proposed FCC pilot program would provide state and regional broadband networks, and would connect those networks to dedicated nationwide backbone providers. In addition, the pilot program would fund the costs of the advanced telecommunications and information services that will ride over those networks.

The scope of the Consortium, a broadband network linking healthcare organizations across three states, would bring the advantages of broadband communication for healthcare to a large region of rural New England. The access to broadband service would create greater access to specialized fields of medicine in these rural areas, with large populations of low income persons. It would reduce travel time in remote rural areas, speed critical diagnoses, and improve the quality of health care provided. Further, the size of the Consortium would allow increased access to healthcare research and education through collaboration and reduced costs.

The Consortium would link 27 partners, already providing telehealth services in their own service area. Over 500 affiliates of these partners would be interconnected if this proposal is funded, and the quality of the partners is impressive.

I urge the Federal Communications Commission to give the application every consideration, and to act favorably upon it consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

SMC:jdc



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DEPUTY WHIP

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
FISHES AND COAST GUARD
SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

April 23, 2007

James Rogers
New England Telehealth Consortium
c/o ProInfoNet
145 Exchange Street, Suite 4
Bangor, Maine 04401

Dear James:

Thank you for contacting me about ProInfoNet's grant application to the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Healthcare Pilot Program. I appreciate hearing from you.

ProInfoNet's development of the New England Health Care Network will provide a vital link with regional consortiums with urban public practices, research institutions, academic institutions and medical specialist for the purpose of greater efficiencies in shared information in the healthcare field. This new network will help connect and provide access to many of the geographically disadvantaged regions in the State of Maine to diverse and quality healthcare services and information. James, you and your staff are to be commended for your active commitment to improving access to health care and taking important steps towards addressing the issues of health disparity for residents throughout New England. It is with this commitment in mind that I lend my support to ProInfoNet's application to the FCC Rural Healthcare Pilot Program.

It is my understanding that these funds will enable ProInfoNet's network to provide much needed broadband networks and connectivity to Internet-2, which will be fundamental in creating the required network for the telehealth and telemedicine services. Additionally, the development of this network will help to eliminate barriers to high quality medical and mental health services, fulfilling the health care needs in the more rural regions of the state.

I have a strong appreciation for the valuable health care services that will be provided by ProInfoNet New England Health Care Network. I trust your application will be reviewed carefully, and be given every consideration. Again, thank you for contacting me and do not hesitate to keep in touch with me on matters of interest to you.

Sincerely,


OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator

AUBURN
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SUITE 7B
AUBURN, ME 04210
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209 MAIN STREET, SUITE 103
SACO, ME 04072
(207) 283-8054

www.tomallen.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1901

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH

ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY

ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS

Co-CHAIR

AFFORDABLE MEDICINES TASK FORCE

Co-CHAIR

April 17, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Rural Health Care Pilot Program

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing in support of the upcoming application by ProInfoNet's New England Health Care Network for funding under the *Rural Health Care Pilot Program Order*.

ProInfoNet is a Maine-based company that has put together an impressive consortium of health care providers and educators that will link health practitioners and specialists, research institutions, and academic institutions over a large geographic area. The consortium involves more than 600 sites across rural northern New England, in Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. In Maine specifically, the consortium includes 477 sites representing 85 percent of health providers in every part of the State. Participants will benefit from greater access to current research, expert support and consultation, and other telehealth and telemedicine opportunities.

I believe that the New England Health Care Network can accomplish the goals of the pilot program by serving as a model for other rural areas of the country and by promoting efficiency, connectivity, and sharing of health information technology. I urge the Commission to give ProInfoNet's application full consideration and hope that you will approve it for funding.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Tom Allen
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Michael J. Copps
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell

THOMAS H. ALLEN
1ST DISTRICT OF MAINE

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SACO, ME 04072
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www.tomallen.house.gov



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1901

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

HEALTH

ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY

ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS

CO-CHAIR

AFFORDABLE MEDICINES TASK FORCE

CO-CHAIR

April 27, 2007

James Rogers
New England Telehealth Consortium
c/o ProInfoNet
145 Exchange Street, Suite 4
Bangor, ME 04401

Re: WC Docket No. 02-06

Dear Mr. Rogers:

I am pleased to write in support of the grant application submitted by the New England Telehealth Consortium.

Maine is a large, primarily rural state, with a relatively small population, many of whom live in areas underserved by health care providers. Traveling long distances to obtain needed medical care is a difficult fact of life for many Maine residents, but is often impossible for others. Health care providers serving in rural areas also are handicapped by lack of access to specialists, consultants and diagnostic and other tools and facilities. The advent of telemedicine has been exceptionally important in solving these problems, and for the past 15 years, the New England Telehealth Consortium has been a leader in this field.

The proposed pilot project that would be funded by this grant is the next and crucial step in this effort to provide telehealth and telemedicine services in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and western Massachusetts. By partnering together, participating research, academic, and health care organizations would be able to reach more providers and provide enhanced services. The collaboration will also reduce costs, thus allowing expansion of existing programs and implementation of more effective and sustainable telehealth services.

Your program has been a great service for the people of Maine. I hope that your proposal is approved so that even more people will benefit.

Sincerely,

Tom Allen
Member of Congress

THA/jc

MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
2ND DISTRICT, MAINE

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1724 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
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www.house.gov/michaud

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEES:
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CHAIRMAN

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL AND URBAN
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX AND FINANCE

April 27, 2007

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the New England Telehealth Consortium's application under the Rural Healthcare Pilot Program.

The development of high speed Internet infrastructure is critical to health care in Maine's rural communities. Sixty percent of Mainers live in the rural regions that encompass much of the state. Serious challenges face rural Maine communities in connecting to high speed Internet, including geographic gaps in service that prevent access for many students, residents, and businesses in the state. This lack of access also impacts health care providers and the services that they are able to provide.

New England Telehealth's initiative would connect healthcare providers across New England to better serve patients through innovative telemedicine programs and other technologies. In particular, the Consortium seeks FCC support for the establishment of dedicated broadband networks and connectivity to Internet-2 (I2). Participants would share a broadband network with many health education institutions, research laboratories, and health care providers, increasing and validating telehealth and telemedicine opportunities.

I am confident that this project would bring significant benefit to residents across New England, and particularly Maine.

With warmest regards,



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

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FAX: (207) 942-6907

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SENIOR WHIP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2007

COMMITTEES:
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS &
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
RANKING MEMBER
SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RURAL ENTERPRISE,
AGRICULTURE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TAX, FINANCE, AND EXPORTS

Mr. James Rogers
New England Telehealth Consortium
145 Exchange Street, Suite 4
C/o ProInfoNet
Bangor, Maine 04401-6505

Dear James:

I am writing to express my strong support for the New England Telehealth Consortium. The Consortium is a non-profit organization consisting of a wide variety of experienced partners including research, academic, public and private healthcare organizations dedicated to telehealth and telemedicine.

The stated goal of the Consortium is to provide increased access to healthcare services, research and education by enhancing broadband capacity to support existing programs. Healthcare services in rural areas is in need of increased attention and the program designed by the New England Telehealth Consortium will address these needs. By connecting rural healthcare providers with urban specialists, teaching hospitals and medical research centers the quality of healthcare provided by rural areas will be increased immensely. Given the large number of rural areas in Maine I support this project wholeheartedly.

Thank you again for your consideration and attention to this most important matter. If you have any questions, or if I may be of any further assistance regarding this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With warmest regards,



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Please reply to:

Office of Congressman Michael H. Michaud
23 Water Street, Suite 205
Bangor, ME 04401

BANGOR:
23 WATER STREET
BANGOR, ME 04401
PHONE: (207) 942-6935
FAX: (207) 942-6907

LEWISTON:
179 LISBON STREET, GROUND FLOOR
LEWISTON, ME 04240
PHONE: (207) 782-3704
FAX: (207) 782-6330

PRESQUE ISLE:
445 MAIN STREET
PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769
PHONE: (207) 764-1036
FAX: (207) 764-1060

WATERVILLE:
16 COMMON STREET
WATERVILLE, ME 04901
PHONE: (207) 873-5713
FAX: (207) 873-5717



JOHN H. LYNCH
Governor

State of New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

107 North Main Street, State House - Rm 208

Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Telephone (603) 271-2121

www.nh.gov/governor

governorlynch@nh.gov

April 25, 2007

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

RE: Letter of Support for FCC 06-144 Application

Dear Secretary Dortch:

I am writing in support of the New England Telehealth Consortium's funding application to the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Health Care Pilot Project (order FCC 06-144). The New England Telehealth Consortium is comprised of rural health care providers in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont, all of who will benefit from an expanded broadband network linking these organizations.

The New England Telehealth Consortium, with more than 500 provider locations, has taken an innovative approach to this funding application. Consumers and providers of health care residing in New Hampshire's rural communities would benefit from expanded and enhanced broadband access to reduce geographic and economic barriers to appropriate levels of health care.

In New Hampshire, we have multiple health care initiatives currently in progress that will also benefit from this funding opportunity: telemedicine, electronic prescribing, distance learning, and electronic medical records, to name just a few. Additionally, the New Hampshire Citizens Health Initiative is working on a broader set of health care issues with the goal of making New Hampshire the healthiest state in the nation with a cost-effective delivery system of care.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

John H. Lynch
Governor

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 26, 2007

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Martin,

The Vermont delegation strongly supports the construction and deployment of advanced, high-speed telecommunications and data networks in rural New England. The improvement and construction of broadband networks and facilities to provide rural New England with the infrastructure will allow residents to live locally and compete globally. We support the New England Telehealth Consortium Proposal, WC Docket No. 02-60 FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Program Grant.

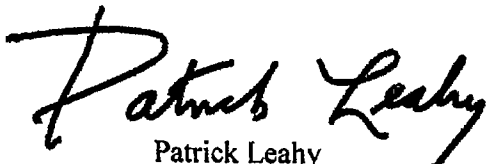
Over the past fifteen years, the individual members and affiliates of the New England Telehealth Consortium have provided telehealth services throughout their service areas, which are predominantly rural. The development of the New England Telehealth Consortium, consisting of 30 members and more than 600 affiliates across three states, is the next logical step in this progressive attempt to provide telemedicine and telehealth services throughout the region and link to networks across the United States. This pilot program will develop a broadband network that will electronically link the consortium's diverse healthcare organizations located across Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire.


The Consortium is a newly formed non-profit organization consisting of a wide variety of experienced partners including research, academic, public and private healthcare organizations dedicated to telehealth and telemedicine. The goal of this Consortium is to provide increased access to healthcare services, research and education by enhancing broadband capacity to support existing programs and the implementation of more effective and sustainable telehealth services. The Consortium will do this by promoting collaboration and reduced costs through partnering and leveraged spending. This grant will make it possible to leverage current telemedicine spending to reach more rural providers, improve the capacity of those currently networked and provide additional specialized services throughout the region, especially to remote, rural areas.


Consortium partners include University of Maine School of Nursing, Mt. Ascutney Hospital, Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, University of New England, North Country Health Consortium and many critical access hospitals located throughout the region. The nationally recognized expertise of these partners includes a wide variety of telehealth experience, research and knowledge that will serve both the Consortium and the Pilot Project well in meeting goals and objectives.

We kindly urge you to give this grant your consideration.

Sincerely,


Patrick Leahy
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Peter Welch
United States Representative

cc: Mr. James Rogers, New England Telehealth Consortium
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate



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May 2, 2007

Jim Rogers
President, ProInfo Net
145 Exchange Street. Suite 4
Bangor, ME 4401

Dear Mr. Rogers:

On behalf of Internet2, I am pleased to write in support of the proposal that the New England Telehealth Consortium (NETC) will be submitting in response to the Federal Communication Commission's Rural Health Care Support Mechanism, WE Docket No. 02-60.

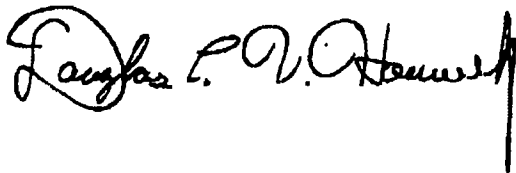
NETC appears to be well positioned to provide enhanced access to underserved regions of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. With 31 members representing 555 health care sites in the tri-state region, NETC provides telehealth services through partners including academic medical centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, health research and health education sites, and correctional facilities. It is likely that NETC efforts will contribute to the improvement of healthcare throughout this tri-state region through remote diagnosis and treatment, and that the use of Internet2's high bandwidth network (facilitated via connection through the Northern Crossroads network) will provide access to unmatched content and support.

The proposal will utilize the new Internet2 Network and the regional networks to expand the telehealth infrastructure and provide high speed connections to all participants. By incorporating Internet2's middleware, security, and performance measurement tools, it also will provide secure exchange of medical records, permit remote access to expert diagnosis and treatment, increase cost-efficiencies by reducing costs associated with travel, and enhance training and research collaboration with secure multi-site videoconferencing. The use of Internet2's network not only will provide an effective, secure, and system for statewide and national telehealth and telemedicine, but also will ensure that training and other integrated resources will be incorporated to optimize the network's utility. In doing so, the regional network that will be created will facilitate the exchange of reliable data, and digital image, voice, and video transmissions with quality to enhance real-time clinical consultation.

Internet2 is the foremost U.S. advanced networking consortium. Led by the research and education community since 1996, Internet2 promotes the missions of its members by providing both leading-edge network capabilities and unique partnership opportunities that together facilitate the development, deployment and use of revolutionary Internet technologies. The Internet2 Network and its member community innovations in middleware, security, educational networking, and partnerships with premier federal agencies such as NIH are uniquely positioned to deliver high performance, flexible, low-cost connectivity in support of healthcare needs on a sustained basis on the local, regional, state, and national levels. In the process, these partnerships are likely to expand technological capabilities, increase the range of geographical access to sophisticated treatment modalities, and redefine the parameters of disease diagnosis, treatment, and management.

We are pleased to offer our support for these initiatives, which will enhance the provision of telehealth and telemedicine services regionally and nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas E. Van Houweling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end.

Douglas E. Van Houweling
President and CEO, Internet2



Northern Crossroads Support for "FCC Rural HealthCare Pilot"

Background

The **Northern Crossroads (NoX)** is an affiliation of Academic, Research, HealthCare, and Government institutions and the networks they represent in New England. The Northern Crossroads today provides connectivity to over one (1) million users in the Northeast US. All with a common interest in facilitating advanced networking and applications in New England. Participants include institutions of higher education and partner organizations that support research, education, healthcare and economic development. The goals of the NoX are to:

- Foster advanced networking in support of research and education in New England;
- Share intellectual capital and material resources to further the development and delivery of advanced network services and applications to our communities;
- Aggregate services to benefit from economies of scale;
- Encourage collaboration among participating institutions and our respective academic communities;
- Consolidate regional representation of our interests to the larger national and international community, and;
- Collaborate with other organizations pursuing advanced networking.

The Northern Crossroads aggregates traffic from its members to the Internet2 national backbone network and provides regional services to its members. The Northern Crossroads has been in continuous operation since October 1999, when the NoX established a robust service platform to support the goals of its participants under a co-location arrangement with Qwest at their point-of-presence (PoP) in Boston at 230 Congress Street. Over the years, the NoX has expanded to 300 Bent Street in Cambridge under a co-location arrangement with Level 3 and to 1 Summer Street in Boston. These service points are interconnected by a vast array of optical fiber, offering virtually unlimited bandwidth to serve the growing needs of our community. The primary purpose of these facilities is to share the cost of a connection to the Internet2 network and to establish a high-performance regional exchange for participants and serve as a regional backup infrastructure in the event of a disaster.

The NoX distributed exchange consists of an array of high-performance routers and switches interconnected to each other, to subscribers, and to regional and national network service providers. When subscribers connect to this exchange, local traffic remains within the exchange, improving performance and reducing demand on more congested and costly backbone networks. Interconnection today between all NoX co-location facilities is 10GB per second over NoX owned dark fiber with a 10GB per second connection to Internet2.

The NoX will support connections from New England Rural HealthCare Hospitals, and groups submitting proposals to the Federal Communications Commission for the "Rural HealthCare Pilot Program". This includes helping in their efforts and fully supports their proposal to the Federal Communications Commission. We believe the Federal Communications Commission has provided the vehicle to interconnect Rural Healthcare into the already existing network of teaching hospitals and medical schools in the urban areas. The potential to overlay applications, including using telepresence, for consultation, continuing education for doctors and nurses, and emergency room remote support are just a few of the potential applications that can be fostered.

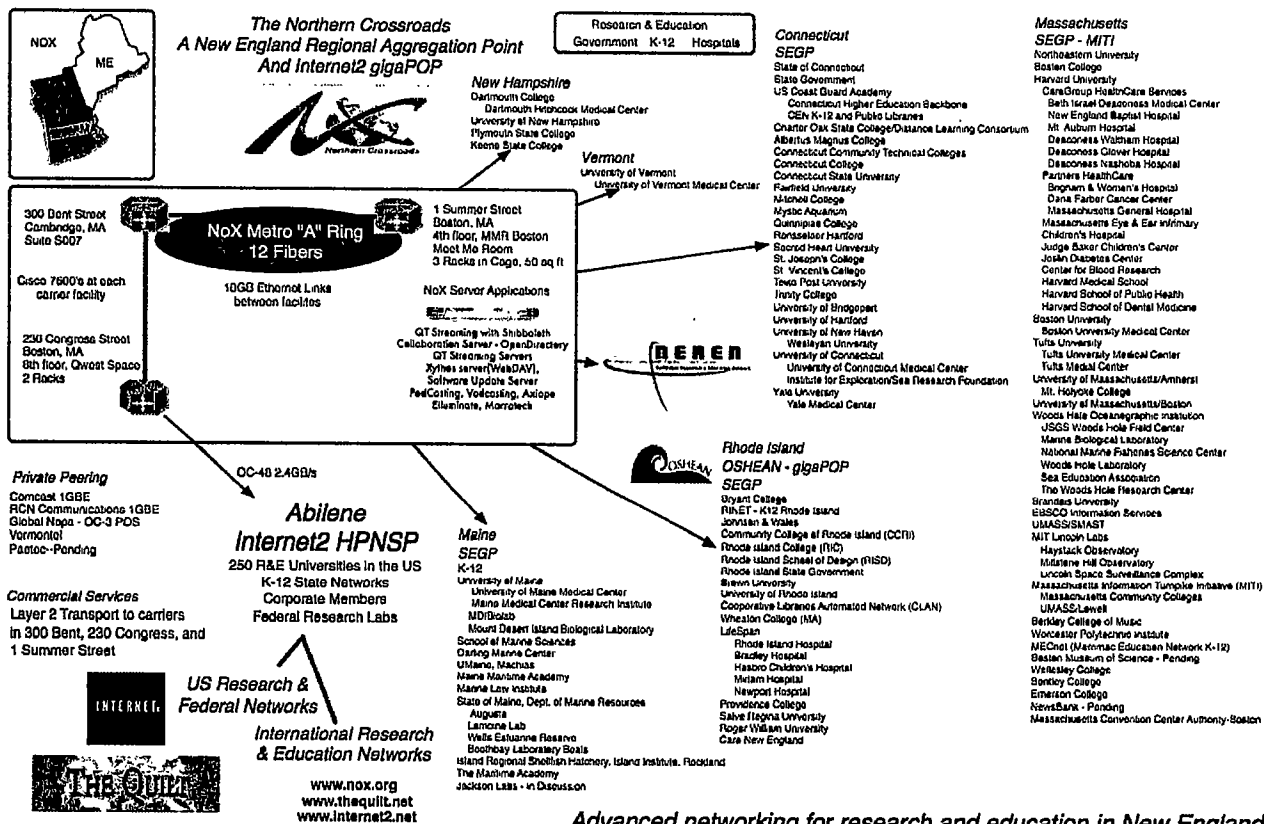
Healthcare is a primary member of the NoX and the NoX promotes and provides support today to the following institutions in New England. These Medical Schools, Hospitals, and Research Labs would be connected to the Rural HealthCare Hospitals and groups through high performance regional connectivity and to national and international healthcare institutions with connections to Internet2. The regional component is important, providing regional areas of the US with redundancy and backup links that can function in the event national or commercial carrier networks become unavailable in the event of natural disaster or attack. The potential exists to create regional and national overlay (private networks) for healthcare, improving security of patient data along with performance.

Northern Crossroads HealthCare Members

The members below are among the world's leading medical institutions, teaching hospitals and medical schools. Connecting these institutions into the 600 plus sites in rural New England would provide unprecedented opportunity to foster telepresence, teaching/learning environments and application development in rural HealthCare.

- Boston University
 - Boston University Hospital
- Dartmouth
 - Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
- Harvard University
 - Harvard Medical School
 - Harvard School of Public Health
 - Harvard Dental School
- Harvard Affiliated Teaching Hospitals
 - CareGroup HealthCare Services
 - Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
 - New England Baptist Hospital
 - Mt. Auburn Hospital
 - Deaconess Waltham Hospital
 - Deaconess Glover Hospital
 - Deaconess Nashoba Hospital
- Partners HealthCare
 - Brigham & Women's Hospital
 - Dana Farber Cancer Center
 - Massachusetts General Hospital
 - Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary
 - Children's Hospital
 - Center for Blood Research
 - Judge Baker Children's Center
- OSHEAN gigaPOP – Rhode Island
 - LifeSpan Hospitals
 - Bradley Hospital
 - Rhode Island Hospital
 - Hasbro Children's Hospital
 - The Miriam Hospital
 - Newport Hospital
 - New England Medical Center
- Tufts University
 - Tufts University Medical Center
 - Tufts University Medical School
- The State of Connecticut
 - University of Connecticut
 - University of Connecticut Medical Center
- University of Maine
 - Maine Medical Center Research Institute
- University of Massachusetts
 - University of Massachusetts Medical Center
- University of Vermont
 - University of Vermont Medical College
- Yale University
 - Yale Medical Center

Northern Crossroads Members



Advanced networking for research and education in New England

For additional information on the Northern Crossroads, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Leo Donnelly
Harvard University
617.384.6541
leo_donnelly@harvard.edu

New England Telehealth Consortium

A Consortium of 555 Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont Health Care Sites

Support Letters Sent to FCC Direct

Mr. John Sununu
U.S. Senator
New Hampshire

Mr. Judd Gregg
U.S. Senator
New Hampshire

Mr. Paul Hodes
U.S. Representative
New Hampshire

Mrs. Carol Shea-Porter
U.S. Representative
New Hampshire